

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 20, 21 and 24 have been amended in response to issues raised in the Office Action. Claims 1-17 and 19-24 remain pending in this application with claim 9 being withdrawn from consideration on the merits.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the prior art rejections have been withdrawn.

Claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19-24 were finally ejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons given on page 4 of the Office Action. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide a range of carbon atoms for substituents R₄ and R₅. Since suitable substituents may be derived from ethylene glycol which contains two carbon atoms (page 7, line 33) or decamethylene glycol which contains ten carbon atoms (page 7, lines 27-28), there is clear support in the specification for the inserted range. This follows the Examiner's suggestion on page 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 20, 21 and 24 have been amended to replace the word "comprises" with the word is as suggested by the Examiner.

Non-elected claim 9 is directly dependent on claim 1. Since claim 1 is now allowable, it is believed that claim 9 also is allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and claim 9 allowed. If the

status of claim 9 is the only remaining issue, the Examiner is authorized to cancel the claim without prejudice or disclaimer.

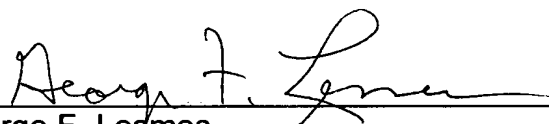
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 30, 2004

By: _____



George F. Lesmes

Registration No. 19,995

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620